

Libertyville, IL - Congressman Mark Kirk joined Libertyville Mayor Jeff Harger, Roy Deda, Deputy for Project Management at the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and several Lake County leaders Monday announcing the start of the environmental restoration of Butler Lake. Matrix Environmental, a Libertyville based construction company, will be performing the work.

Over the years, low water levels and shoreline decay lowered the quality of Butler Lake's ecosystem. In the winter of 2001, nearly all the fish were killed when the lake froze over. A draft agreement between the town of Libertyville and the ACOE several years ago to restore Butler Lake never was formally approved, causing many in Libertyville to wonder if Butler Lake would ever be saved. As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, Congressman Kirk secured approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the lake's restoration.

"I am proud that we joined local and federal governments to save Butler Lake," said Kirk. "When complete, this restoration project will make Butler Lake a recreational haven for Lake County residents for years to come."

The Butler Lake restoration project will occur in two phases. The first phase will include the construction of a sediment dewatering facility and the dredging of Butler Lake. Dredging Butler Lake will increase the depth of the lake, opening recreational opportunities like fishing, canoeing and sailing. The second phase will restore the surrounding ecosystem, including a native prairie, buffer and plants for bank stabilization. The Butler Lake project will be completed next summer.

Contact: Matt Towson
847-940-0202
cell: 773-454-5396